

A new look...

T JUN 11 1981

Parks + Recreation (Vigo Co.)

City's Spencer F. Ball Park undergoes a facelift



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Vigo County Public Library

New facilities dedicated

Dedication of a half-million dollar renovation at the Spencer F. Ball Park was slated this afternoon.

The facelift at the park included design and construction of handicapped fitness playground equipment, a new shelter, reworking of the baseball diamond, tennis courts, basketball court and off-street parking.

The park is located on the city's near northside, between 14th and 15th streets and Sixth and Eighth avenues.

Outlook

Some of the new facilities include (at top) the patio-like area with its many benches and shelters for the public.

The storage area (top, at right), which serves as the main complex, contains restroom facilities. There are also a host of tables and

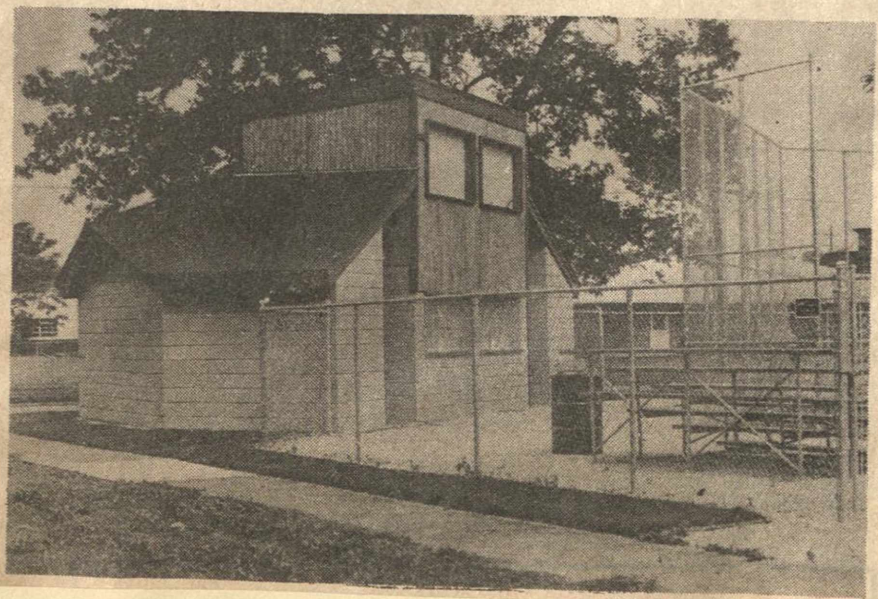
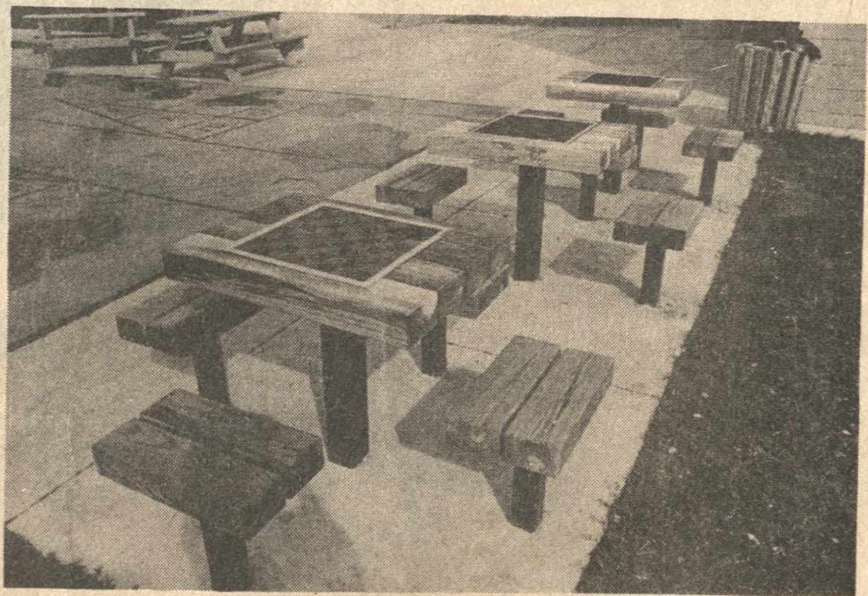
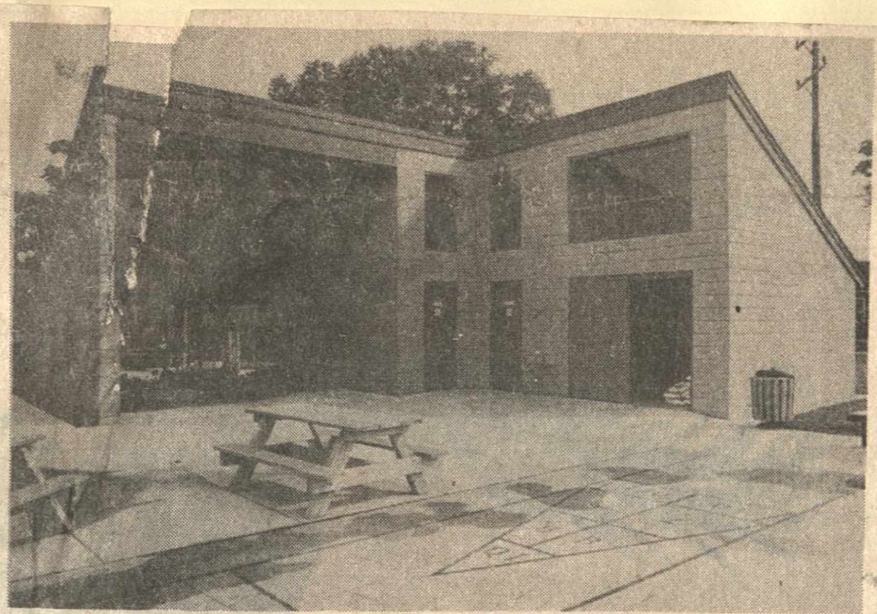
benches (center right), which serve as sites for sitting down to eat or for just watching the people.

The concession stand (bottom right), located on the southwest corner of the park adjacent to the ball diamond, offers a variety of foods. The fences that can be seen here are newly constructed and erected, also.

The park has also added an area for the kids (below) where they can enjoy new playground equipment.

Staff photos are by Bob Poynter.







FUN RUN — Just add kids and the new playground facilities installed at the Spencer Ballpark are complete. The wooden ramps leading to and from the equipment are

as attractive as they are practical, city officials say. The new playground should be sturdy enough to last for years to come and easy to maintain as well.
(Staff Photo: Bob Poynter)

Dedicate Rebuilt Spencer F. Ball Parks and Recreation Vigo Co. JUN 11 1981 Recreation Park This Afternoon

The Spencer F. Ball park project has been completed and will be dedicated by Mayor Chalos and other

city officials attending a late afternoon public ceremony Thursday.

Chalos said in a press release Wednesday that the ceremony would provide "an opportunity for the community as a whole to inspect the very fine, very attractive renovation work just recently completed."

About \$528,000, mostly federal funds, have been used to give the ballpark a complete facelift. Construction work by Major and Sons of Clinton began several months ago.

A new baseball diamond, tennis and basketball courts, a new playground area and additional parking facilities have been added.

Music and ritual for the ceremony will be provided by the American Legion Post 40 Color Guard and the Terre Haute North Vigo High School Band. Cookies and punch will be served as refreshments.

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Community Affairs File

Park Perspective



Community Affairs File

by Patrick Ralston,

Parks + Recreation
City Parks Superintendent *(UC)*

Spencer F. Ball Memorial Park

TH Gazette 4-5-85
The Park featured this week is Spencer F. Ball Memorial Park which is located at Fifteenth Street and Eighth Avenue on Terre Haute's northside. Spencer Park has a total of 9.86 acres and has several varieties of trees throughout the park.

On November 13, 1917, Spencer F. Ball designated in his last Will and Testament that the City of Terre Haute receive 40% of a trust fund that was derived from the sale of various properties. Rose Polytechnic Institute received 50% and the Rose Home for the aged received 10%. The City of Terre Haute's share was \$24,351.17. This amount was to be held in permanent endowment with the interest to be used for the development of a park.

On November 28, 1919 the Board of Park Commissioners purchased the property now known as Spencer F. Ball Park for Loretta Z. Hulman for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). Soon after the property was purchased, there were two softball diamonds and one baseball diamond constructed. From its inception Spencer F. Ball Park has been known as mainly a baseball & softball park. Over the years many of Terre Haute's famous athletes have grown up playing baseball at the park. I can remember seeing Tommy John playing at Spencer during his High School days. The Park Department operated a summer baseball program at Spencer for several years.

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Over the years Spencer Park had begun to deteriorate and it was felt that with the new High School diamonds that maybe other facilities could be put in Spencer Park for the entire family. In 1980 the City of Terre Haute received a grant from the Department of the Interior and funds from the Department of Redevelopment to totally renovate Spencer F. Ball Park. A total of \$528,550.00 was spent on the project. Included in the renovation of Spencer F. Ball Park were the following items: handicapped adapted playground, 20 station exercise course, bandstand off street parking lot, tennis courts, basketball court, plaza area with shelter, restrooms, maintenance area, softball complex with lights, and a concession stand with press box. Many trees were planted throughout the park as well.

Spencer Ball Park has become one of the most popular City Parks with its excellent facilities.

This Easter Sunday, April 7th, brings the 52nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt to Deming Park. Sponsored by the Vigo County American Legion Council and Merchants National Bank, prizes will be awarded in three age categories from toddlers to 12-year olds. The Hunt will begin at approximately 2 p.m., so bring the whole family out to Deming Park to watch the fun!

Spencer

Spencer F. Ball Park

PARK IS POPULAR WITH ATHLETES

Tri-Stat — 6-28-42

The Spencer F. Ball park is a large area devoted to varied athletics, such as baseball, softball, football and tennis and is located at Fourteenth to Fifteenth streets and Eighth to Sixth avenues.

The park received its name from Mr. Ball, who donated \$25,000 to the city of Terre Haute for the maintenance of city parks. Although there are no regular caretakers assigned to the Ball park, a roving gang of park employes take care of the place and keep the area in first class condition.

The most noted improvements to the park during the past recent months include installation of extra heavy wire on the baseball backstops and the trimming of trees.

Terre Haute's many recreational facilities furnish local residents an opportunity to participate in every kind of sports activity and game. It would be wise for local citizens to use the local parks and enjoy

Community Affairs File **Final approval of Spencer Park grant awaited**

NOV 24 1978

The grant that has been approved at the state level for Spencer F. Ball Park is to go for renovation of the facility, according to Patrick Dougherty, superintendent of the city Park and Recreation Department.

The planned project "changes its direction from a park for baseball and baseball instruction to a neighborhood, multi-use park," Dougherty said Friday in a telephone interview.

However, Dougherty said, the park will continue its same baseball program after the renovation is complete.

Earlier this week, it was announced the Indiana Natural Resources Commission has approved a grant of \$238,550 for a project at the park located on the city's north side.

Work scheduled to be done with the grant includes installation of a lighted baseball field accompanied by bleachers and a concession stand, Dougherty said. Currently about six diamonds exist at the park, but they will be phased out, he added.

Other additions planned for the park include two tennis courts and a basketball court, all to be lighted, the superintendent said. Those courts also will have bleachers that will be used to aid with instruction of the sports, he said.

Also scheduled for the park are a paved parking lot, a gardening area for handicapped persons, a jogging and exercise trail, and adult games such as shuffleboard, Dougherty said.

The park's baseball program has changed during the years and now does not need all the room available there, Dougherty said.

The grant must go to Washington D.C. for final approval, according to Dougherty.

City park board will seek funds

AUG 31 1978

A resolution calling for a \$487,725 renovation project at Spencer F. Ball Park has been approved by members of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board.

The approved resolution calls for the city to seek federal matching funds from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation fund for the improvements.

The matching fund grant will be prepared by Steve Wallis, regional planner for the West Central Indiana Economic Development District. It will be presented to the Department of Natural Resources and then forwarded to a federal agency.

City Councilman Jack Neaderhiser, chairman of the park and government committee for the city council said the

city's share of the renovation project would come from federal revenue sharing funds or cumulative capital improvement funds.

Plans call for the renovation project to include: a baseball diamond, a softball diamond, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, horseshoe pitching areas, shuffleboard courts and an gardening area for the severely handicapped citizens. Also, about one-fourth of the park would be set aside as a free area with a jogging course running through the middle of the 9.8 acre area with various exercise stations along the way.

Wallis said Thursday the city should be informed of the approval of disapproval of the project by March of 1979.

T AUG 21 1981

Parks Recreation, Vigo Co **Security problem noted at park**

Because of security problems at Spencer F. Ball Park, persons caught at the park after its 10 p.m. closing time will be arrested, Gerald Loudermilk, chief of police, said today.

Loudermilk said residents near the park complained people were playing basketball at the park into the early morning hours. Juveniles also gathered at the park.

"We've had a lot of complaints," he said.

Loudermilk said lights at the newly remodeled park had been left on as a security measure. However, the lights apparently attracted the

basketball players.

The lights were then put on timers set to shut off at 10 p.m. Loudermilk said people apparently broke the timers and turned the lights on themselves.

Loudermilk said his officers made nine arrests at the park Tuesday and Wednesday night. Arrestees were between the ages of 16 and 18, and all but one were preliminarily charged with drug or alcohol related offenses, he said.

Police will continue to patrol the area in an attempt to clear up problems at the park. A similar effort

was successful at Deming Park recently, he said.

"We plan to do the same thing out at Spencer," Loudermilk said. "We're determined to clean it up."

Signs were to be erected at the park posting its closing time.

Problems began at the park, he said, after it was renovated this year.

Returning to the situation at Deming Park, Loudermilk said arrests at that park have dropped since an officer began living at a house on the park property. Police made a concentrated effort to clear up problems at the park after receiving complaints about alleged illegal activity there.

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City Park Board Discusses Plans To Remodel Spencer F. Ball Park

Park & Recreation (Vigo) Community Affairs File

S AUG 31 1978

By CHUCK ADAMSON
Star Staff Writer

Plans to refurbish Spencer F. Ball Park were discussed Wednesday evening at a public hearing during which the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board adopted a resolution to seek federal matching funds.

The resolution, passed unanimously by the board members, seeks matching funds from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation fund.

Steve Wallis, regional planner for West Central Indiana Economic Development District, will prepare the draft which first will be sent to the Department of Natural Resources for

grading on a point basis. From there the plan will be sent to higher government agencies for final approval before being sent back to the city council.

Jack Neaderhiser, chairman of the park and government committee for the city council, noted, "We endorse the plan and it would be tremendous for the city. Matching finances would come from federal revenue or cumulative capital improvement funds."

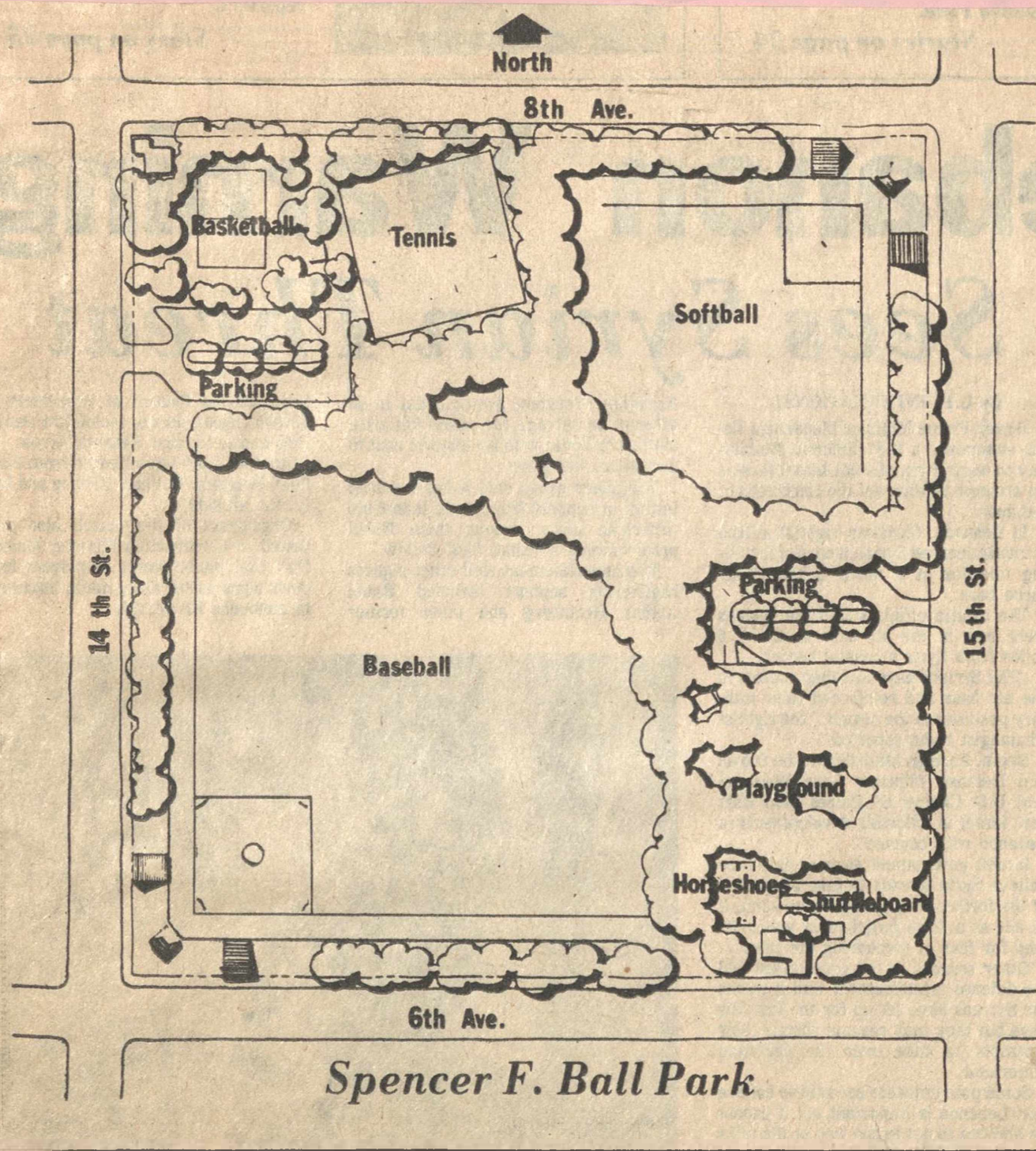
Presently, Spencer F. Ball Park is composed of six baseball diamonds. According to the plan submitted to the Park Board by project planner Dave Mobley, the new facility would have one baseball diamond and one softball field,

two tennis courts, two basketball courts, horseshoe pitching areas, shuffleboard courts and an area for gardening for severely handicapped citizens. In addition, approximately one-fourth of the park would be set aside as a free area with a jogging course running through the middle of the 98 acre area with various exercise stations along the way.

Cost of the renovation proposal is estimated at \$487,725, half of which may come from federal funds.

According to Wallis, approval or rejection of the project by the federal government should be known by March, 1979. State approval follows before the city has to provide the remaining funds.

(over)



Parks & Recreation (Vigo)
**Public hearing
set tonight on File
Spencer Field**

AUG 30 1972
Superintendent of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department Pat Dougherty today encouraged members of the public to appear at a public hearing on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Room 218 of the City Hall to discuss the federally funded renovation of Spencer Ball Field into a comprehensive neighborhood park.

Dougherty said. "We are hopeful that members of the public will express their feelings on this project. The Park and Recreation Board will be in session and Steve Wallis from West Central Indiana Economic Development District will be on hand to represent WCIEDD who is assisting in preparing the federal application.

"The project will include a lighted baseball field and a lighted softball field complete with dugouts and bleachers, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a playground, shuffleboard, horseshoes, a picnic area, a pavillion and gardening for the handicapped.

"The renovation is one of the top priorities in the recently completed City Park and Recreation Department Masterplan." Dougherty concluded.

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Community Affairs File

16, 1979.

Parks and Recreation (Vigo Co)

T MAY 16 1979

Survey nearly complete on Spencer Park

By BRYAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

Survey work is almost completed in an effort to determine what neighborhood residents near Spencer F. Ball Park, 15th Street and Eighth Avenue, want in that facility when it is renovated, according to Patrick Dougherty, superintendent of the Park and Recreation Department.

Park department employees have been conducting a door-to-door survey of the neighborhood within a three-block radius of the park.

The survey asks what type of recreational equipment should be placed in the park and what kind of recreational activity is needed in the community.

The city has received a \$240,000 grant from Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Division of the Department of the Interior, for half the renovation cost.

Funding for the other half of the project is being sought through the Community Development Block Grant fund program administered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. A decision on the city's application for that money should be made within the next week, according to a HUD spokesman in Indianapolis.

Once the city has the money in hand, specification work could begin in June with the letting of the bid contract in late July or August, the superintendent said.

If those procedures go as planned, landscaping work on the renovation possibly could begin in September, Dougherty said.

Final plans have not been drawn for the renovation, but work being

considered includes a lighted baseball field, lighted tennis courts, a lighted basketball court, playgrounds, a rest area for adults, gardening for the handicapped, an exercise trail, a parking lot and landscaping, Dougherty reported.

Dougherty said he did not anticipate any change of direction from those plans as a result the surveys already in. Most of those items coincide with survey wishes, he explained.

The park department will continue to run its regular summer baseball

program at Spencer F. Ball Park this summer, Dougherty said. Renovation work will not start until the program is complete.

When asked if the park would be completely renovated in time for next spring, Dougherty said he did not know.

He said the department would try to have enough work done by spring so regular programs could be continued at that site. If not, arrangements would be made to have the program at a different place that year, he explained.

Community Affairs File

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To JUL 2 1972

Program Attracts Hundreds

Community Affairs File

18 THE TRIBUNE-STAR, TERRE HAUTE, IND.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1972

City Parks Recreation

By CAROLYN TOOPS
Tribune Staff Writer

Though 24 parks are officially listed as being under the jurisdiction of the City of Terre Haute's Board of Park Commissioners, several of them really aren't parks in the usual sense of having benches, playground equipment, winding paths, etc.

But it's still up to the Park Department to cut the grass and do the maintenance chores at the parks that aren't—these include the two acres of Edgewood Grove Boulevard, Adams St., Wabash to Potomac, and Van Buren, Wabash to Hudson; one acre total in the "Six Triangles," Edgewood Grove; Ohio Blvd. from 19th to Fruitridge, total of 46.1 acres; the Terre Town Triangles 25th and Lafayette Ave., two acres; the smallest of all, the Lone Triangle Boulevard at 8th and Hulman Sts., 0.05 acre (containing one tree, some shrubbery and a telephone booth); and the five acres of 6th St. Blvd. from Helen to Margaret Ave.

Most of the activity this summer is concentrated in the larger parks, where three special (and highly organized) recreation programs are popular with all age groups. These are swimming and water sports at Deming, Sheridan and Voorhees Parks; tennis at Rea and Collett, and baseball at Spencer F. Ball Athletic Field.

In addition to the 27 full-time employees of the Park Department assigned to maintenance, 28 people have been hired this summer for the recreation pro-



BASEBALL IS CHIEF ATTRACTION AT SPENCER BALL FIELD — Mike Reyher is in charge of the city park department's baseball program at Spencer F. Ball Athletic Field this summer. The six diamonds are in use constantly. The younger boys are given special instruction on Fridays by the five young men working with Mike. Here Charlie Potts is watching closely as one of the young hopefuls takes his turn at batting practice.

House of Photography Photos.

grams, plus 24 extra employees for maintenance. Also working under the supervision of the Park Department are 28 youths from the Neighborhood Youth Corps, who put in 25 hours each week and assist with the many park housekeeping chores necessary in the summer. Transportation to the various park sites is provided by the Park Department for the NYC contingent.

Baseball

At Spencer F. Ball Athletic Field, 14th to 15th Sts., 7th and 8th Ave., about 400 boys from ages 5 to 16 are taking part in park department sponsored baseball every morning and afternoon. Monday through Friday. The season began June 5 and will continue through Aug. 17. Registration was held the first week and play began June 12. Tournament week for all four leagues will begin Aug. 10, after which ribbon and other awards will be presented.

Mike Reyher is in charge of the baseball program and is assisted by Bill King, Steve Homburg, Dan Kunkel, Don Minger and Charles Potts. Gene Miller, a full-time employee of the Park Department, is assigned to Spencer Ball Field and is in charge of maintenance.

The kids come from all over the city; Reyher considers the location of the park excellent in this respect. Many parents and friends stay as spectators for the games (about 125 to 150 every morning). The younger boys play in the mornings beginning at 9:30, and the older boys afternoons at 1:15. Regular league play is scheduled for mornings. On Fridays the younger boys receive special instruction from the staff.

Playing equipment is furnished by the park department—this includes bats, balls, catchers' equipment.

Reyher lists 185 boys, ages 5 to 7, in the Tiny Sluggers; 110, ages 8 to 9, Beginners; 80, ages 10 to 12, Novice, and 45 from 13 to 16 in the Junior League.

The six diamonds at Spencer Ball Field are in use during daylight hours about 90 per cent of the time, Reyher estimates. Other players are ready and waiting their turn after the regular daytime program is over. Part of Mike's job involves co-operating with other groups which use the field in planning and scheduling other games, and in making sure that grass



HEAD LIFEGUARDS AT CITY POOLS are from left, Scott Lycan, Voorhees; Joe Taylor, Sheridan, and Isabel McCarthy, Deming. William Nelson at poolside was discussing the increasing popularity of water polo among the swimmers participating in the summer swim programs. This is the kind of ball used in the sport. If interest continues, there may be a match later with waterpoloists from Fowler Park.

cutting and repairs don't interfere with the games.

Indiana State University's intramural sports program uses the field some of the time, with about 18 games played on Monday and Wednesday evenings. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the Connie Mack League uses the park.

Reyher said that some of the repair jobs that must be done immediately are contracted and the claims sent to the Park Department; park officials are notified of other work to be done by the maintenance staff.

Gene Miller was busy picking up litter when I visited the field and generally keeping an eye on things. The matter of a water faucet that needs a renovation had been referred to the superintendent, and will be done by the regular maintenance staff as soon as parts are available.

One deficiency is the lack of a telephone in the small office. A pay phone on the premises

does not always work, I was told.

Otherwise, everything seemed to be going along well -- the boys were stopping in the office to say goodby to Mike and the instructors, and mothers were checking as to the exact time of the next game. Mike was doing some clerical chores (getting the standings in to the newspaper, for one) and hobbling around on a sprained ankle, result of an injury in a baseball game last weekend (he plays for the Hulman All Stars semi-pro team in his off hours).

Tennis

The morning tennis lessons at Rea Park conducted by Randy Ross were just ending as I visited Rea Park, 7th and Davis Ave. earlier this week. There are nine courts, six of them lighted.

One little girl, with a twinkle in her eye, said, "We took a skills test today, and nobody won." Randy explained that

they had all attempted serves, up, down, backhand and forehand shots in succession to see how well they could perform. He considers that boys pick up the skills necessary for tennis a little more easily and quickly than girls do, attributing this to the fact that most of the boys also play baseball.

Randy has about 53 students who appear regularly for lessons, but says that anyone interested may join at any time. Adults have their lesson at 9 a.m. daily Monday through Friday at Rea. Randy teaches five classes. Boys and girls classes for those 8 to 11 are held in the mornings, and boys and girls 12 to 15 in the afternoons.

Randy notes several really good prospects among the older boys, several of whom played in the junior tournament last weekend.

A round robin tournament for the boys will get under way soon, Randy said, with each one getting to play every other one.

Architectural Specifications Ordered For Spencer Ball Park Renovation

Parks & Recreation (Vigo Co)

S JUN 11 1975 S JUN 7 1975

Plans for projects at three city parks and the Terre Haute Girls Club were discussed Tuesday at the monthly meeting of the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board.

Landscape architect David Mobley was instructed to draw specifications for a proposed \$480,000 project at Spencer F. Ball Park, 15th Street and Eighth Avenue. Plans are to renovate the site to include a lighted baseball field, lighted tennis courts, playgrounds, an exercise trail, restroom facilities, a rest area and a garden area for the handicapped.

Earlier this year, the city received a grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and a grant from the the Community Development

Block Grant Program administered by HUD. The money is to be used on the Spencer F. Ball Park project.

Similar federal funding is to be sought for projects at Fairbanks Park and the Girls Club. City officials said they have requested the Girls Club board of directors to determine what is needed to upgrade the facility there. Also, park officials contracted Mobley to draw preliminary plans for renovation of the historic Fairbanks Park.

The park board decided to include a playground area, a half-court basketball facility and fencing for a vest-pocket park at Highland. The project is funded through a donation by Anaconda Industries.

Community Affairs File

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Parks & Recreation (Vig Co.) **City park renovation to be readvertised**

T MAY 17 1980

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board decided to readvertise for bids for the renovation of Spencer F. Bail Park Friday.

Pat Ralston, superintendent of the park department, said the bids would be readvertised this Monday, May 19, and Monday, May 27, with the opening of bids expected on June 8.

Readvertising became necessary when bids came in over the budget, Ralston indicated. Bids had been re-

ceived Wednesday, May 7.

Plans for the renovation originally had called for a lighted baseball field, a community plaza, benches, shelters, restrooms, shuffleboard courts, a stage area, a jogging path, a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts and trees.

The estimated cost of the project had been \$490,000 and it is to be paid for through federal monies.

T APR 4 1980

Spencer F. Ball Park renovation scheduled

Community Affairs File

By BRYAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

The city park department is scheduled to open bids for renovation of the Spencer F. Ball Park at 3 p.m. on April 21 in City Hall.

Bids are to be received in three

segments: general construction including demolition, earthwork, construction of buildings and other recreational areas; play and exercise equipment construction; and landscaping construction.

A complete renovation of the park, located at 15th Street and Eighth Avenue, has been planned by the Park Department. Currently it is a flat surface used mainly for a baseball.

Park Department Superintendent Pat Ralston said during a Wednesday interview it is hoped renovation work can start May 1. The project should be completed by this fall and be ready for full use next year, he added.

One of the regular activities at the Spencer park has been a summer baseball program. While the park is closed for renovation this summer, the baseball program will be conducted at Memorial Park, at Eighth Avenue and Fourth Street, Ralston said.

Plans for the Spencer site call for a lighted baseball field, a community plaza where people can meet and relax during a park visit, benches, shelters, rest rooms, shuffleboard courts, a stage area, a jogging path, a playground, tennis courts, basketball courts and trees.

The project cost has been estimated at about \$490,000 and it is to be paid with federal monies from the federal Department of the Interior and from the federal Community Development Block Grant program administered locally by the Department of Redevelopment.

New plans for the renovation were approved by the park board earlier this year.

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Redevelopment Commission Okays New Plans For Spencer Ball Park

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Terre Haute Redevelopment Commission approved Wednesday the new set of plans for the remodeling of Spencer F. Ball Park after a detailed presentation and discussion of the plans by David Mobley, architect with Hartung & Associates, Inc., Bloomington.

Park Department Supt. Patrick Ralston also was at the meeting and, with Mobley, explained the purposes of the park and the changes involved from the original plan. Changes include a larger open space for soccer, softball or baseball instead of using the space for an ice skating rink when applicable, a lighted baseball field complete with bleachers, concession stand with restroom facilities and a parking lot.

There also will be a community plaza, jogging path, playground facility with inclines and ramps for the handicapped, tables, benches, planter boxes and trees.

Mobley emphasized the objective was to create an outdoor open space for a diversified program so the Park Department could become involved with performing arts programs and the park could serve as a place for community gatherings. He also stated the idea is to keep it a neighborhood park where softball games will be played as well as biddyball.

Ralston, in reply to a question about the school corporation's programs, said his department was trying not to overlap these programs and was adding innovations of its own.

Total estimated cost for the construc-

tion of the park will be approximately \$480,000, with no more than \$240,000 from the Department of Natural Resources and approximately \$240,000 from the Department of Redevelopment. Mobley said if all goes as planned, he hoped the park would be ready by next spring.

In other business, the commissioners approved the job description for a secretary-receptionist for the Redevelopment Office with the salary open relative

to experience. Cliff Lambert, Commission member, said when the geographical scope was increased for applications for the position of director of the department, the search committee was "innundated" by applicants, many with "fine credentials."

The commission authorized Mrs. Dee Hugg, office manager, to make plans for painting and carpeting of the offices in City Hall into which the department will move later this month. She said she will get three estimates each for the painting, carpeting and moving. The commissioners also suggested she ask for an extension of time for the moving deadline from March 15 to the end of the month.

A representative of Wickes Buildings, Crawfordsville, asked the commission about a contract it has for a warehouse to be built on South First Street. Mrs. Hugg said the building had been approved by the Redevelopment Department as an all-metal structure but it is a wood frame with metal siding and this is not permissible under urban renewal specifications and the site is in the urban renewal area.

The Wickes' representative said the proposed building meets state specifications. The commissioners asked for a letter from the Honda firm which has the contract with Wickes Building stating the kind of building to be constructed. The commissioners then will consider the request at a special meeting as soon as the request is received.

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T MAR 5 1980

Parks - T.H.
1980

Park renovation plans OK'd

By BRYAN TAYLOR
Tribune Staff Writer

New renovation plans for the Spencer F. Ball Park on the city's north side were approved by the city park and recreation board when it met in regular monthly session Tuesday afternoon.

The plans need approval from the Redevelopment Commission and from officials in Indianapolis prior to letting bids on the work, said Pat Ralston, park superintendent. Hopefully bid specifications can be advertised in a month, he said.

The plans call for a lighted baseball field to "honor the tradition" of the park, a parking lot, a community plaza where people can meet, benches, shelters, rest rooms, shuffleboard courts, a stage area, a jogging path, a playground, tennis

courts, basketball courts and trees.

David Mobley, landscape architect working on the plans for the city, presented them to the park board Tuesday.

The city has been considering renovation for the Spencer park during the past year. Previous plans had been approved, but they were redefined under the new administration of Mayor Pete Chalos, according to Mobley.

The major change in the plans has been the dropping of a proposed ice skating area from the original plans, Ralston reported. He said that move would allow more open space for other park activities and the site could become a "mudhole" during the spring.

The park is located at 15th Street

and Eighth Avenue.

The project cost has been estimated at about \$490,000 and it is to be paid with federal monies from the Department of the Interior and from the Department of Redevelopment's Community Development Block Grant program, according to Ralston.

In other park board business:

- Ralston reported he has been informed over the telephone the city is to receive approval for its application seeking a grant to do a "recovery action" plan. The plan will outline department priorities and make the city eligible for a federal funding program.

- A bid of \$29,260 was awarded to O.M. Scott & Sons, Marysville, Ohio, for fertilizer used on the two local golf courses.

Vigo County Public Library

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Spencer F. Ball park project bids opened

Park & Recreation *Community Affairs File*

T JUN 7 1980

The Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board Friday opened bids for the Spencer F. Ball improvement project. The bids will be forwarded to the Terre Haute Department of Redevelopment for its consideration.

According to Pat Ralston, city park superintendent, the apparent low bids submitted for the \$528,550 park project have been approved by the park and recreation board and must now be approved by the redevelopment board. Funds for the project are being administered by both departments, Ralston said.

The apparent low bid for general contractor was submitted by Major & Sons Construction. The local company submitted a base bid of \$313,300.

Other general contractor bids were submitted by J. A. Sears Co., \$319,754; Shelton Hannig Construction

Co., \$325,818; White Excavating, \$331,703, and Newlin-Johnson Co., \$348,473.

Ralston said the apparent low bid for electrical work was submitted by Potter Electric. The Potter Electric bid was \$69,330.

Other bids for electrical work were submitted by B&A Electric, \$75,000; Ketner & Sons Electric, \$81,957, and Triple A Electric, \$83,990.

Bunch Nurseries Inc., submitted the apparent low bid for landscaping. The bid was \$50,977.

Other bids for landscaping were submitted by Kelley Inc., \$51,490, and Exterior Designing Inc., Hoagland, \$60,257.

Creative Playground was awarded the contract for playground equipment. They submitted a low bid of \$52,662.

Community Affairs File

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Park & Recreation (Pitt)

Contracts approved for park renovation

Community Affairs File JUN 19 1980

The Redevelopment Commission met Wednesday and approved contracts for renovation of the Spencer F. Ball Park, according to a report from the Department of Redevelopment.

The contracts still need to be signed, reports indicated. Marc Elliott, executive director of the department, said construction on the project could be started within two weeks.

The commission voted to accept all low bids on the project, according to Elliott.

Apparent low bids on which the contracts are to be awarded are: \$313,000 from Major and Sons Construction Inc. for general construction; \$52,662 from Creative Playgrounds Corp. for playground equipment; \$50,977 from Bunch Nurseries Inc. for landscaping; and \$69,330 from Potter Electric for electrical construction.

According to reports, an initial report to the commission indicated Ketner & Sons had submitted the low bid, but that firm had a higher bid.

The Department of Redevelopment and the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department are working together on the park renovation. Part of the money to pay for the work is coming from federal block grant money administered by the Department of Redevelopment.

Some of the planned improvements included a baseball field, a parking lot, tennis courts, a shelter, a playground and a basketball court.

Also at Wednesday's meeting, the board voted to have the department solicit for bids on gutter and curb work in an area bounded by Seventh

Street, Margaret Avenue, 13th Street and Helen Avenue. Plans for the work have been drafted and accepted.

That work is to be paid with funds from the federal Community Development Block Grant program.

Concerning another local improvement project, the commission is to be receiving plans within the next few days for improvements in the central eastside area.

About 20 firms have been asked to submit design plans for work on sewers, curbs, gutters and streets, Elliott reported. Some work in that area could begin next year, reports indicated.

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Spencer Ball Park '75 Percent' Complete

Park & Recreation (V406)
Terre Haute park officials Wednesday reimbursed the Terre Haute Redevelopment for more than \$120,474 for construction costs of Spencer F. Ball Park and authorized the park superintendent to enter into a reciprocal use agreement to enhance funding eligibility for improvements at Fairbanks Park.

According to Pat Ralston, park superintendent, the redevelopment department already has paid for \$120,474.15 in improvements at Spencer Ball Park. He said the board acted to reimburse the redevelopment department as well as to send claims to state officials for matching funds.

Ralston said the park project is 75 percent

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complete and hinted the facility will be open to the public this spring.

An application for funds for proposed improvements at Fairbanks Park was recently denied by state officials, but Ralston said efforts are being made to improve the city's chances of procuring funds.

Wednesday, the board said Ralston may enter into a reciprocal use agreement with the YWCA and Girl Scouts Covered Bridge Council. The agreement, in essence, would allow each of the organizations to utilize park facilities in return for letting the park department use YWCA and Girl Scout facilities for some programs. Ralston said

the agreement must be approved by the board of directors of both the YWCA and Girl Scouts.

The reciprocal agreement will give the city extra points in its application to obtain funds for the Fairbanks Park renovation. Ralston also said many organizations have written letters supporting the project and the letters will be included in the next application.

An inventory system of park department property has been initiated, Ralston said. Metal plates using a numerical system are being attached to all property having a value of at least \$50, he said. The inventory will be compiled and stored in a computer. Periodic updates of the inventory will be made.

Park vandalism problem; ordinance should reduce it

By KATHY DENNIS
Tribune Staff Writer

Since nine teenagers were arrested at Spencer F. Ball Park last week, city park vandalism has dwindled, Pat Ralston, city parks department superintendent, said.

Ralston estimates that between \$8,000 and \$10,000 in damages has been done to the city-operated parks and golf courses this year, which is about the same as last year.

"Parks get a certain amount of vandalism every year," he said.

This year, however, less destruction has occurred on Terre Haute golf courses than last year, and parks have received slightly more vandalism, Ralston said.

Even though he hates the vandalism, Ralston said its not an overwhelming problem.

"I feel it's not that bad. It could be worse," he said. "And as much as I hate any of it, it's not been a disaster to us."

But he expects the vandalism in the parks to taper off considerably beginning next month, and to be cut at least in half next year because of various security measures to be taken.

An ordinance on behalf of the local parks will go before the City Council, Sept. 10 which, if passed, would give the Terre Haute Police Department the authority to arrest anyone in a city park after its 10 p.m. closing time.

A measure such as this was already put into effect at Spencer Ball Park last week after the persons were arrested on alcohol and drug-related offenses. Although these people were not specifically charged with vandalism, the park has had much damage done to it this summer.

The city parks close by 10 p.m. at the latest, but it is after this time that most of the vandalism occurs, he said.

Ralston said that after closing time the lights are turned out in the parks and there is no legitimate activity that can be conducted.

"There's nothing else there to do but get in trouble," he said.

However, since the arrests last week and the scheduling of workers in the parks at various times both when they are open and when they are not, vandalism has not been as prevalent, he said.

If the ordinance is passed, Ralston said, signs will also be put up stating that persons found in the park after 10 p.m. will be arrested.

"Sooner or later they're going to get the message that we don't want them in there," he said.

Ralston said he wants more persons to be aware that so much vandalism occurs so that they will be more likely

to report it when they see it happening.

Because the cost of replacing or repairing broken and torn up materials is high, the park department tries to hold the cost down by having its own employees do most of the repair work, he said.

Although the park department does have insurance against such damages, it has a \$500

deductible clause in its policy. Ralston said most of the individual incidents of vandalism fall under the \$500 mark.

When something is vandalized, Ralston said he prefers to act on it as soon as possible.

"We try to put things back to normal as quick as possible," he said. "If we leave it broken or damaged, people tend to take less care of it."

Parks & Recreation / Vigo Star
7-6-81

Take Care of It, Please

Spencer F. Ball Park on the city's northside has been transformed into a unique park. It offers everything from a shaded shelter where citizens may sit and read, to a lively playground for youngsters to a ball diamond. What makes it unique is the fact that it is contained within two city blocks.

Before construction began there six ball diamonds neatly packed into the area. Neighborhood youngsters used to spend the hours between dawn and dusk on those diamonds, then, when baseball season was over, those same youngsters would drag their football to the wide-open center of the field for some football action.

Now there is only one diamond, but it is better than any of the six, two tennis courts and a basketball area, in addition to the shelter area and playground. Carefully placed shrubs and trees add beauty to the park.

Approximately \$400,000 was spent on the project which took several months to complete.

The park is being used daily by numerous citizens of all ages. The sad part of all this is vandals already have made their mark. So far the damage has not been too bad. Most of the trees that were planted are still there. Some didn't last a day before vandals destroyed them or thieves uprooted them. A city official said the rims on the basketball bankboards were broken or torn off within an hour after they had been put up.

This kind of action is deplorable and intolerable. We would ask people to treat the park as if it belonged to them, but we are not naive enough to think that would work.

We implore those involved in destruction of the park facility to cease their activity at that park, as well as other park facilities. With the economy in serious condition many families are foregoing vacations and visiting a park for recreational activity.

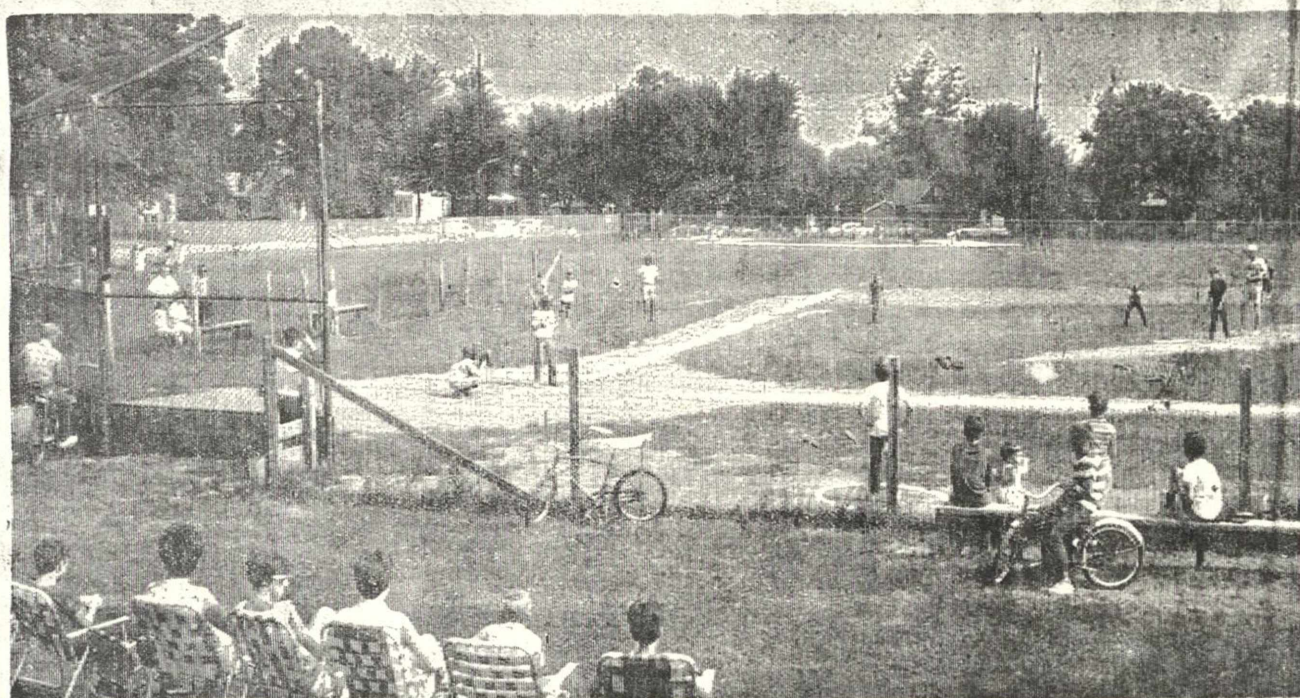
Please take care of it.

Vigo County Public

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Community Affairs File

SPENCER F. BALL



CHILDREN BY THE HUNDREDS COME from all over Vigo County to take part in the summer baseball and softball programs at the Spencer F. Ball Park. Coach Howard

Sharpe of Gerstmeyer High School directs the activities, and believes taxpayers are getting a great bargain in the operation of the summer project. Photo by Martin.

By DICK SUTLIFF

T.H.T. Tribune Staff Writer 7/14/68

Whether your pleasure is golf, tennis, swimming, baseball or any number of other outdoor sports, you're sure to find it at one of the 19 parks in the Terre Haute city park system.

In this fifth of a series on city parks, the spotlight shines on the William S. Rea Park, the Spencer F. Ball Park and Memorial Park (not to be confused with Memorial Stadium).

Rea Park's 160 acres—equal in size to Deming Park—includes a well-appointed, 18-hole golf course, four tennis courts and a large clubhouse, erected in 1925 in memory of Mr. Rea.

The summer recreation program at Ball Park, co-sponsored by the Terre Haute Park Department and the Vigo County School Corp., attracts thousands of youngsters, most of whom are members of baseball and softball teams which play there.

The Spencer F. Ball Park, containing almost 10 acres of land, is one of the primary centers for the city-school summer recreation program. Baseball and a limited amount of softball are the principal attractions for the younger set.

Howard Sharpe, head basketball and baseball coach at Gerstmeier High School, directs the activities. He supervises 45

baseball teams composed of 735 youngsters who play and play hard every weekday at the park, located between 14th and 15th Sts. from 7th to 8th Aves.

Five Games at Once

"Sometimes we have five games going at the same time," Sharpe reports. "It's a real good program, and people sure get their tax money's worth. There's nothing like it," says Sharpe. In addition to the baseball teams, there are 12 softball teams which utilize the park, he said.

The total cost of the summer recreation program, Sharpe says, will amount this year to only \$2,966, including equipment and salaries for him and his four assistants. A similar program in a large city would cost

as much as \$25,000 a year, Sharpe related.

He pointed out that every effort is made to sustain the interest of the tiny tots in sports activity. Rules of the game are few and far between, Sharpe said, because "the more rules you make, the more kids don't get to play."

There are 14 teams, known as the Tiny Sluggers, who range in age from 5 through 7. There are 215 boys currently taking part in those teams, and they are not bound by the usual rules of baseball as the older boys play it.

Sharpe says these youngsters hit the baseball off a tee, rather than from the hurl of a pitcher. And there's no limit to the number of strikes, as each child is allowed to bat until he hits a fair ball.

"One thing you have to do," says the coach, "is keep up a little fellow's interest. If he comes to the park and plays baseball, but fails constantly, the first thing you know he won't come back anymore."

Says Sharpe: "These kids are so little that the pitcher can't get the ball over the plate, and even if he could, the catcher can't catch it anyway. So that's why we use the tee system for the smaller youngsters."

Given by Editor

The Spencer Ball Park was acquired by the city under the will of Mr. Ball, who left about \$24,000 in trust for the park. The donor, born in Terre Haute Sept. 10, 1856, died here Nov. 6, 1917, at the age of 61. Mr. Ball was a noted newspaperman, having been publisher with his brother, William C. Ball, of The Terre Haute Gazette from 1874 to 1904, a predecessor of The Terre Haute Tribune. He also maintained an active interest in community affairs.